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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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More canned tuna and mackerel are in sight for the U. S. consumer as a result of the relatively successful year in these two important west coast fisheries the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries reported today.

By the end of November the pack of tuna and mackerel had exceeded the 1942 figure for the same period by nearly 400,000 cases, and when the tally of the entire year's production has been completed the increase may be even larger.

During the first eleven months of 1943, 2,550,000 cases of tuna and 718,000 cases of mackerel had been packed, as against 2,336,000 of tuna and 496,000 of mackerel in the same period the previous year. The eleven-month pack of each species is larger than the total 1942 pack.

Tuna and mackerel normally account for about 15 percent of the U. S. pack of canned fish, only salmon and sardines being canned in larger quantity.

Although up compared with 1942, production of both tuna and mackerel was below average last year. The recent annual pack of tuna has been about 3-1/3 million cases, Pacific mackerel about one million.

A considerable number of tuna clippers and other boats have been in use by the Army and Navy since early in 1942, and this fact is chiefly responsible for the smaller catches. As a result of the boat-building program sponsored by the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries, a number of new boats will enter the tuna and mackerel fisheries next year, which should result in further production increases in 1944, officials of the Coordinator's Office said.